



**United States Department of State  
and the Broadcasting Board of Governors  
Office of Inspector General**

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## **Inspection of Embassy Montevideo, Uruguay**

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The Ambassador and the country team have engaged intensively and effectively to improve bilateral relations with Uruguay's left-of-center coalition government, demonstrating that the United States is prepared to work closely with Latin American governments that maintain democratic institutions and respect human rights, regardless of their ideological orientation.

The Ambassador and the Embassy have secured important bilateral economic agreements, including a trade and investment framework

agreement, a bilateral investment treaty, and a science and technology protocol, while effectively promoting U.S. business and exports.

The Embassy has promoted close and effective law enforcement cooperation with Uruguayan authorities despite the fact that U.S. law enforcement agencies are no longer present in Montevideo. The Embassy is also increasing its training and cooperation engagements with the Uruguayan armed forces and police, principally related to Uruguay's international peacekeeping role.

The Ambassador's high priority public diplomacy agenda has led to significant positive shifts in Uruguayans' perceptions of the United States—an impressive accomplishment in a region where public approval of the United States is low. An additional officer is needed to meet the public diplomacy staff shortage and sustain this progress.

The management section has for the most part provided good services across the range of administrative functions, although customer service at the top has sometimes been an issue.

In the past there has been a lack of conformity with National Security Decision Direction-38 (NSDD-38) provisions regulating mission growth. The mission should regularize a position that had not been authorized and adhere strictly to NSDD-38 provisions.

The Embassy failed to manage the local guard force program in a manner that assured against any perception of favoritism or conflict of interest, despite embassy policy guidelines to that effect.